



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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**TENNESSEE JOINS MULTISTATE AGREEMENT WITH CHEVRON
TO CURB TOBACCO SALES TO MINORS**

Tennessee has joined 25 other states and the District of Columbia in an agreement with Chevron Products Company, to implement new procedures to reduce sales of cigarettes to minors.

The agreement announced today requires Chevron to implement at each of its company owned stores comprehensive retailing practices designed to stop young people from buying tobacco. Chevron will also take a number of steps to prevent youth access to tobacco at its franchise outlets in signing states. Additionally, Chevron will make it clear in its franchise agreements violations of youth access laws could constitute grounds for termination or non-renewal of the franchise agreement.

“We applaud Chevron for stepping up to be good corporate citizens with these actions help stop young people from smoking,” Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers said. “Studies have shown smokers begin smoking in their teens, and anything we can do to help stop someone from ever starting smoking is progress.”

The Attorneys General have long recognized that youth access to tobacco products ranks among the most serious public health problems. Studies show more than 80 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 18. Research indicates that every day in the United States, more than 2,000 people under the age of 18 start smoking and that one-third of those persons ultimately will die from a tobacco-related disease.

Chevron, one of the nation’s largest oil companies with approximately 9100 retail outlets in 32 states and Washington, D.C., is the tenth company to reach such an agreement produced by an ongoing, multi-state enforcement effort. Previous agreements cover all 7-Eleven, CVS, Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Rite Aid stores, and all gas stations and convenience stores operating under the Conoco, Phillips 66 or 76, Exxon, Mobil, BP, Amoco and ARCO brand names, in the signing states. Combined, the agreements cover about 70,000 retail outlets across the nation. Launched in 2000, the multi-state enforcement effort by the Attorneys General seeks to secure national retailers’ agreement to take specific corrective actions to prevent sales of tobacco products to minors. State laws prohibit such sales.